

## Rulemaking Fact Sheet *(5 MRSA §8057-A)*

AGENCY: Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Animal Welfare Program

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL OF AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Ronda Steciuk, Director,  
[Ronda.steciuk@maine.gov](mailto:Ronda.steciuk@maine.gov) , 207-287-5531, 90 Blossom Lane, Augusta, ME 04330

CHAPTER NUMBER AND RULE TITLE: Chapter 702, Rules for Low Income Spay Neuter Program

TYPE OF RULE (*check one*):    ☒ Routine Technical    ☐ Major Substantive

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §3910-B. Companion Animal Sterilization Fund

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING: January 18, 2023, 10am-12pm, Online/ TEAMS Meeting

COMMENT DEADLINE: January 28, 2023

PRINCIPAL REASON(S) OR PURPOSE FOR PROPOSING THIS RULE: Rule changing to accommodate administration by third party and the addition of feral cats per 7 MRS §3910-B(1-A) Companion Animal Sterilization Fund enacted in 2022, as well as updating program's payment delivery to providers, increasing program efficiency, and reducing administration costs.

IS MATERIAL INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THE RULE? \_\_\_\_YES   x  NO [§8056(1)(B)]

ANALYSIS AND EXPECTED OPERATION OF THE RULE: These rules provide necessary guidelines for administration of the Help Fix ME (Companion Animal Sterilization Fund) to comply with the requirement of engaging a third-party administrator per 7 MRS §3910-B(1-A) Companion Animal Sterilization Fund enacted earlier this year. Additional rules are required to ensure a suitable administrator will be found and to ensure the effective delivery of the program on behalf of the state.

These rules will also improve delivery of the Help Fix ME (Companion Animal Sterilization Fund programming) to both the public and participant veterinary providers by providing updated and more effective and efficient payment processes and communication processes. These rules allow for methods and modes of service delivery more in line with modern approaches to spay/neuter delivery to low-income clientele. These rules also account for the current shortage of veterinary professionals in the state by specifically including large scale spay/neuter events which have become the primary mode of service delivery to areas of the state most lacking in veterinary capacity for providing Help Fix ME surgeries. They will also allow for feral cats to be spayed and neutered by anyone regardless of income status.

### BRIEF SUMMARY OF RELEVANT INFORMATION CONSIDERED DURING DEVELOPMENT OF THE RULE

Overall structure and design of §3910-B Companion Animal Sterilization

Assessment of existing delivery of services and data compiled by the state regarding program participation

Feedback from stakeholders following presentation to AWAC (Animal Welfare Advisory Committee) regarding potential program improvements in 2022.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT OF THE RULE: Expectation is that the Rules will increase efficiency of program delivery. Any potential impact expected to be negligible.

#### **FOR EXISTING RULES WITH FISCAL IMPACT OF \$1 MILLION OR MORE, ALSO INCLUDE:**

ECONOMIC IMPACT, WHETHER OR NOT QUANTIFIABLE IN MONETARY TERMS:

INDIVIDUALS, MAJOR INTEREST GROUPS AND TYPES OF BUSINESSES AFFECTED AND HOW THEY WILL BE AFFECTED:

BENEFITS OF THE RULE: [see §8057-A(2)(C)]

*Note: If necessary, additional pages may be used.*